

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1    1. A system for automatically prioritizing communications, comprising:  
2         a contact center configured to receive said communications;  
3         a decision engine configured to determine a priority code for each of said  
4                 received communications; and  
5         at least one queue configured to store said prioritized communications in  
6                 order of priority code.

1    2. The system of claim 1, wherein said decision engine includes a parser  
2         configured to analyze content of said received communications.

1    3. The system of claim 1, wherein said communications include text  
2         communications and said decision engine includes a parser configured to parse  
3         text of said text communications.

1    4. The system of claim 3, wherein said text communications contain  
2         natural language that is parsed by said parser.

1    5. The system of claim 2, wherein said parser identifies concepts of said  
2         received communications.

1    6. The system of claim 5, wherein said parser identifies relationships  
2         between said concepts.

1    7.    The system of claim 5, wherein said decision engine compares said  
2    concepts with priority criteria to determine said priority codes.

1    8.    The system of claim 2, wherein said parser analyzes said received  
2    communications by identifying keywords in said received communications.

1    9.    The system of claim 1, wherein said communications are received by said  
2    contact center via a text-based communication channel.

1    10.   The system of claim 1, wherein said communications are voice  
2    communications and said decision engine includes a parser configured to  
3    analyze content of said voice communications.

1    11.   The system of claim 1, wherein an agent having a judgment of priority  
2    selects prioritized communications from said queue according to said judgment  
3    of priority.

1    12.   The system of claim 11, further comprising a monitoring module  
2    configured to monitor communications selected by said agent and to provide  
3    said selected communications and priority codes of said selected  
4    communications as feedback to said decision engine.

1   13. The system of claim 12, wherein said decision engine utilizes said  
2   feedback to adjust priority criteria used to determine priority of said received  
3   communications.

1   14. The system of claim 1, wherein said decision engine includes a parser  
2   configured to parse said received communications and a priority module  
3   configured to receive parsed communications from said parser and determine  
4   said priority code for each of said parsed communications.

1   15. The system of claim 14, wherein said priority module is a learning  
2   system and receives feedback from a monitoring module that monitors  
3   communications selected from said queue by at least one agent.

1   16. The system of claim 14, wherein said priority module is a rule-based  
2   system that determines said priority code according to a set of predetermined  
3   rules.

1   17. The system of claim 1, wherein said priority code is determined in  
2   accordance with priority guidelines established by a user of said system.

1    18. A system for automatically prioritizing tasks, comprising:  
2        a contact center configured to receive said tasks;  
3        a decision engine configured to determine a priority code for each of said  
4            tasks; and  
5        at least one queue configured to store said tasks in order of priority code.

1    19. The system of claim 18, wherein said decision engine includes a parser  
2        configured to analyze content of said tasks.

1    20. The system of claim 18, wherein said decision engine includes a parser  
2        configured to parse text of said tasks.

1    21. The system of claim 20, wherein said tasks contain natural language  
2        that is parsed by said parser.

1    22. The system of claim 19, wherein said parser identifies concepts of said  
2        tasks.

1    23. The system of claim 22, wherein said parser identifies relationships  
2        between said concepts.

1    24. The system of claim 22, wherein said decision engine compares said  
2        concepts with priority criteria to determine said priority codes.

1    25. The system of claim 19, wherein said parser analyzes said tasks by  
2 identifying keywords in said tasks.

1    26. The system of claim 18, wherein said tasks are received by said contact  
2 center via a text-based communication channel.

1    27. The system of claim 18, wherein said tasks are voice tasks and said  
2 decision engine includes a parser configured to analyze content of said voice  
3 tasks.

1    28. The system of claim 18, wherein an agent having a judgment of priority  
2 selects tasks from said queue according to said judgment of priority.

1    29. The system of claim 28, further comprising a monitoring module  
2 configured to monitor tasks selected by said agent and to provide said selected  
3 tasks and priority codes of said selected tasks as feedback to said decision  
4 engine.

1    30. The system of claim 29, wherein said decision engine utilizes said  
2 feedback to adjust priority criteria used to determine priority of said tasks.

1    31. The system of claim 18, wherein said decision engine includes a parser  
2    configured to parse said tasks and a priority module configured to receive  
3    parsed tasks from said parser and determine said priority code for each of said  
4    tasks.

1    32. The system of claim 31, wherein said priority module is a learning  
2    system and receives feedback from a monitoring module that monitors tasks  
3    selected from said queue by at least one agent.

1    33. The system of claim 31, wherein said priority module is a rule-based  
2    system that determines said priority code according to a set of predetermined  
3    rules.

1    34. The system of claim 18, wherein said priority code is determined in  
2    accordance with priority guidelines established by a user of said system.

1    35. A method for automatically prioritizing communications, comprising:  
2       receiving said communications;  
3       determining a priority code for each of said received communications;  
4       and  
5       storing said prioritized communications in at least one queue according  
6       to priority code.

1    36. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of determining a priority code  
2    includes analyzing content of said received communications.

1    37. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of determining a priority code  
2    includes parsing text of said received communications.

1    38. The method of claim 37, wherein said text of said received  
2    communications contains natural language.

1    39. The method of claim 36, wherein analyzing content of said  
2    communications includes identifying concepts of said received  
3    communications.

1    40. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of determining said priority  
2    code includes comparing said concepts with priority criteria.

1    41. The method of claim 36, wherein analyzing said received  
2    communications includes identifying keywords.

1    42. The method of claim 35, wherein said communications are received via a  
2    text-based communication channel.

1    43. The method of claim 35, wherein said communications include voice  
2    communications and the step of determining a priority code includes analyzing  
3    content of said voice communications.

1    44. The method of claim 35, wherein an agent having a judgment of priority  
2    selects communications from said queue according to said judgment of priority.

1    45. The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of monitoring  
2    communications selected by said agent and utilizing said selected  
3    communications and priority codes of said selected communications as  
4    feedback.

1    46. The method of claim 45, wherein utilizing said selected communications  
2    and said priority codes includes adjusting priority criteria used to determine  
3    priorities of said communications.

1    47. The method of claim 43, further comprising the step of converting said  
2    voice communications into text communications prior to determining said  
3    priority code.

1    48. The method of claim 43, wherein analyzing content of said voice  
2    communications includes identifying emotional content.

1    49. A system for automatically prioritizing communications, comprising:  
2        means for receiving said communications;  
3        means for determining a priority code for each of said received  
4              communications; and  
5        means for storing said prioritized communications in order of priority  
6              code.

1    50. A system for automatic task prioritization, comprising:  
2        a decision engine configured to receive tasks and to determine a priority  
3              of each task;  
4        at least one task queue configured to store said prioritized tasks in order  
5              of priority; and  
6        a monitoring module configured to monitor tasks selected from said task  
7              queue by at least one agent and to forward said selected tasks and  
8              a priority code associated with each selected task as feedback to  
9              said decision engine such that said decision engine uses said  
10             feedback to update priority criteria.